

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. (canceled).

26. (currently amended) A packing machine comprising a frame (33) having a front wall; a series of operating devices (2, 4, 8, 149) supported by the frame (33) and located on the front wall of the frame (33); ~~and~~ a crane supported by the frame (33) and for facilitating removal/assembly of the operating devices (2, 4, 8); ~~the packing machine (1) being characterized in that~~ and first operating devices (149) ~~are~~ fitted to the frame (33) to move between a work position, in which the first operating devices (149) are located on the front wall of the frame (33) and in front of the crane, and a maintenance position in which the first operating devices permit free access to the crane from the front wall.

27. (previously presented) The machine of claim 26, wherein said crane comprises a horizontal guide (148), and an arm running along the guide (148).

28. (previously presented) The machine of claim 27, wherein said arm is movable between a rest position, in which the arm is substantially parallel to said guide (148), and a work position in which the arm is crosswise to the guide (148).

29. (previously presented) The machine of claim 28, wherein said frame (33) comprises at least one beam (145) rigidly supporting said first operating devices (149) and movable with respect to the frame (33) to move the first operating devices (149) between said work position and said maintenance position.

30. (previously presented) The machine of claim 29, and comprising a protective casing (101) supported by the frame (33) and for housing the operating devices (2, 4, 8, 149); the protective casing (101) comprising a panel (111) supported by said beam (145).

31. (previously presented) The machine of claim 30, wherein said panel (111) is movable between an open position and a closed position by means of a first actuating device supported by said beam (145).

32. (previously presented) The machine of claim 30, wherein said beam (145) is hinged to said frame (33) to oscillate, with respect to the frame (33), about a horizontal axis (146) by means of a second actuating device.

33. (currently amended) ~~A packing~~ The machine of claim 26, and comprising a ~~frame (33) having a front wall;~~ a series of operating devices (2, 4, 8, 149) supported by the frame (33) and located on the front wall of the frame (33); ~~and~~ a user interface unit (122) having a box (123), and a monitor (125) housed in the box (123); ~~the packing machine (1) being characterized by comprising~~ and a tubular body (124) supporting said box (123) at one end and hinged, at the other end, to the base of said frame (33) to rotate about a vertical axis (129).

34. (previously presented) The machine of claim 33, and comprising connecting cables for connecting said box (123) to said frame (33); the connecting cables being housed in said tubular body (124).

35. (previously presented) The machine of claim 34, wherein said tubular body comprises a substantially vertical portion (127) supporting said box (123); and a horizontal portion hinged to the base of said frame (33).

36. (currently amended) ~~A packing~~ The machine of claim 26, and comprising a frame (33) having a front wall; and a series of operating devices (2, 4, 8, 149) supported by the frame (33) and located on the front wall of the frame (33); ~~the packing machine (1) being characterized by comprising~~ a display (132), which is supported by said frame (33), at said front wall, and is relatively large so as to display writing readable from a distance of at least .20 meters.

37. (previously presented) The machine of claim 36, wherein said display (132) comprises a matrix of red LED's.

38. (previously presented) The machine of claim 37, and comprising a protective casing (101) supported by the frame (33) and housing the operating devices (2, 4, 8, 149); the protective casing (101) comprising a substantially transparent panel (111) covering said display (132).

39. (currently amended) ~~A cigarette packing~~ The machine of claim 26, and comprising a straight conveyor (150) for feeding packets (151) of cigarettes in a feed direction (162); and a control station (152) located along said conveyor (150) and comprising a television camera (157) and two mirrors (159); ~~the packing machine (1) being characterized in that~~ said television camera (157) is being mounted with its optical axis (160) perpendicular to a front wall (161) of a packet (151) of cigarettes at the control station (152); and said two

mirrors (159) ~~are~~ being located on opposite sides of said conveyor (150) to reflect to the television camera (157) a complete view of the lateral walls (164) of the packet (151) of cigarettes, a complete view of the edges (165) between the lateral walls (164) and a rear wall (166), and a view of two end portions of the rear wall (166) not resting on the conveyor (150).

40-42. (canceled).